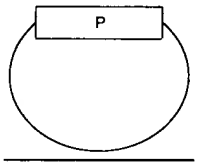
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The present amendment amends claims 8, 11, 12, 18, 19, 32 and 33, and adds claims 44-52. According to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c), after entry of the present amendment, the following claims are in the case:

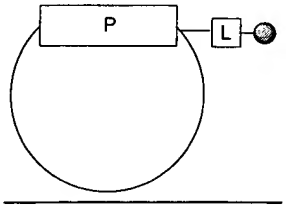
Claims 1-7 cancelled

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 1,~~ A method of synthesis of a cyclic peptide or peptidomimetic compound of General Formula I



General Formula I

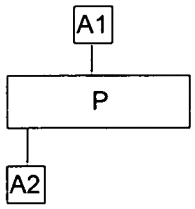
or General Formula II



General Formula II

where L is a linker unit, linking the cyclic peptide to a solid support in which the cycle is a monocycle, bicycle or higher order cycle comprising 1 to 15 monomers, which is carried out in solution, comprising the steps of:

a) Preparing a linear peptide of General Formula III



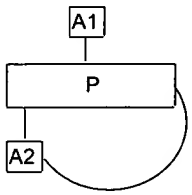
General Formula III

where P is a linear peptide of 1 to 15 monomers;

A1 is one or more N-substituents, either reversible or non-reversible, on the peptide backbone, or is a chemical moiety that forces a *cis* conformation of the backbone, and

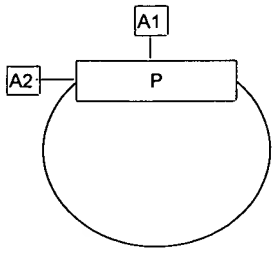
A2 is a covalently-bonded group of atoms comprising a reactive functionality to form an initial large cyclic peptide prior to ring contraction to the desired substituted cyclic peptide;

b) Activating the *C*-terminus to form a cyclic peptide of General Formula IV:



General Formula IV

c) Permitting the peptide of General Formula IV to rearrange via a ring contraction reaction ~~(which may occur spontaneously)~~ to form a cyclic peptide of General Formula V; and optionally



General Formula V

d) Subjecting the cyclic peptide of General Formula V to a deprotection reaction to remove the groups A1 and A2 to yield the desired cyclic peptide of General Formula I.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, in which P is a linear peptide of 1 to 10 monomers.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, in which P is a linear peptide of 1 to 5 monomers.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, in which A1 ~~and/or A2~~ is left attached to the peptide, A2 is left attached to the peptide or both A1 and A2 are left attached to the peptide.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11, in which A1 ~~and/or A2~~ is subsequently linked to a solid support, derivatised, or linked to another cyclic peptide or peptidomimetic compound; A2 is subsequently linked to a solid support, derivatised, or linked to another cyclic peptide or peptidomimetic compound; or both A1 and A2 are subsequently linked to a solid support, derivatised, or linked to another cyclic peptide or peptidomimetic compound.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, in which A1 is a reversible N-substituent.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, in which A1 is a 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzyl, 2-hydroxybenzyl or 2-hydroxy-6-nitrobenzyl substituent.

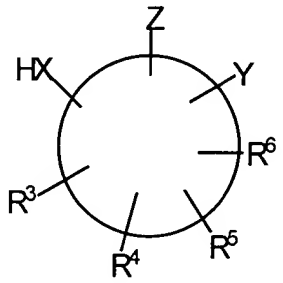
15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, in which A2 is eliminated by spontaneous ring contraction.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, in which A2 comprises a nucleophile that reacts rapidly with a *C*-terminus to form an initial large ring, which then contracts either spontaneously, or upon heating or additional chemical treatment.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, in which A2 is thiol or hydroxyl.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, in which A2 is an irreversible substituent, A2 is removed after ring contraction, or A2 is eliminated spontaneously upon ring contraction.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, in which A2 is a compound of general formula (a):



(a)

in which the ring

(a) optionally comprises one or more heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, and sulphur;

(b) is of ~~5 to 7~~ 6 atoms;

(c) comprises 3 carbon atoms substituted respectively by XH, Z, and Y; and

(d) is additionally substituted ~~by groups R^3 and R^4 when the compound is a 5-membered ring, or is additionally substituted~~ by groups R^3, R^4, and R^5 ~~when the~~

~~compound is a 6-membered ring, or is additionally substituted by groups R3, R4, R5 and R6 when the compound is a 7-membered ring,~~

in which

X is oxygen, sulphur, CH_2O-, or CH_2S-;

Y is an electron-withdrawing group;

Z is any group which allows the formation of a covalent carbon-nitrogen bond; and

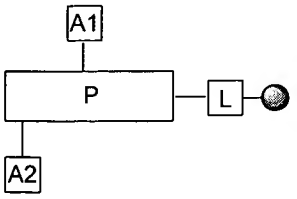
R^3, R^4 and R^5 are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, XH or Y, or a covalent linkage to a solid support, and

in which R^3 and R^4 or R^4 and R^5 can optionally together with the ring form a 5-, 6-, or 7- membered ring.

Claims 20-31 cancelled

32. (Currently Amended) A method of solid phase synthesis of a cyclic peptide, comprising the steps of

a) synthesis of a linear solid support-bound peptide of General Formula XIII,



General Formula XIII

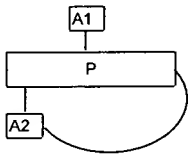
where P is a linear peptide of 1 to 15 monomers;

A1 is one or more N-substituents, either reversible or non-reversible, on the peptide backbone, or is a chemical moiety that forces a *cis* conformation of the backbone, and

A2 is a covalently-bonded group of atoms comprising a reactive functionality to form an initial large cyclic peptide prior to ring contraction to the desired substituted cyclic peptide;

L is a linker between any atom of the peptide and the solid support, and

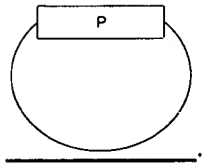
b) subjecting the peptide of General Formula XIII to cyclisation and concomitant cleavage from the solid support to yield a cyclic peptide of General Formula XIV,



General Formula XIV

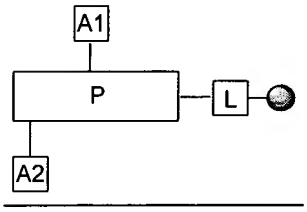
c) subjecting the cyclic peptide of General Formula XIV to ring contraction ~~(which may be spontaneous)~~, and

d) if A1 is a reversible substituent, cleaving the groups A1 and A2 to yield the desired cyclic peptide of General Formula I:



33. (Currently Amended) A method of solid phase synthesis of a cyclic peptide, comprising the steps of;

a) synthesis of a linear solid support-bound peptide of General Formula XIII,



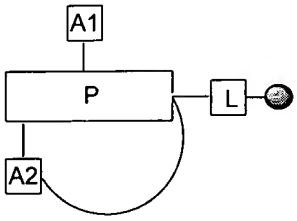
where P is a linear peptide of 1 to 15 monomers;

A1 is one or more N-substituents, either reversible or non-reversible, on the peptide backbone, or is a chemical moiety that forces a *cis* conformation of the backbone, and

A2 is a covalently-bonded group of atoms comprising a reactive functionality to form an initial large cyclic peptide prior to ring contraction to the desired substituted cyclic peptide;

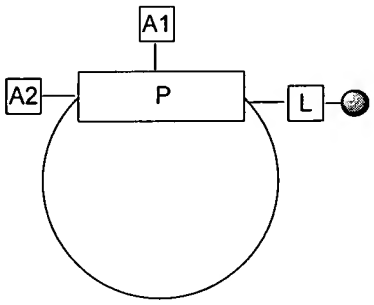
L is a linker between any atom of the peptide and the solid support, and

b) subjecting the linear peptide to cyclisation on the solid support to yield a cyclic peptide of General Formula XV,



General Formula XV

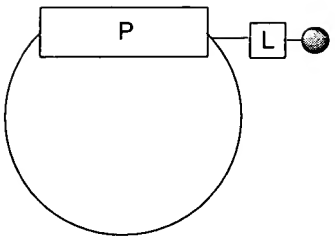
c) subjecting the cyclic peptide to ring contraction ~~(which may occur spontaneously)~~ to yield a cyclic peptide of General Formula XVI,



General Formula XVI

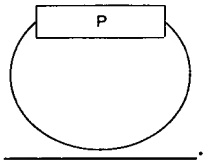
and either

d) cleaving groups A1 and A2 while the peptide is bound to the solid support to yield a resin-bound cyclic peptide of General Formula II, or



General Formula II

e) subjecting the cyclic peptide to deprotection and concomitant cleavage from the solid support to yield the desired cyclic peptide of General Formula I:



34. (Original) A method according to claim 33, in which side chain deprotection of the peptide, removal of A1 and cleavage from the solid support are performed separately.

35. (Original) A method according to claim 33, in which side chain deprotection of the peptide, removal of A1 and cleavage from the solid support are performed concurrently.

Claims 36-38 cancelled

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 32, in which one or more of the monomers carries a side chain protecting group.

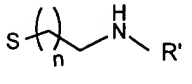
40. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 33, in which one or more of the monomers carries a side chain protecting group.

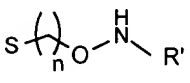
Claims 41-43 cancelled

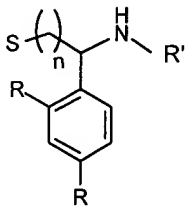
44. (New) A method according to claim 8, in which A1 is a cis-amide bond surrogate.

45. (New) A method according to claim 44, in which the cis-amide bond surrogate is a tetrazole.

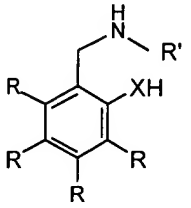
46. (New) A method according to claim 8, in which A2 is selected from the group consisting of



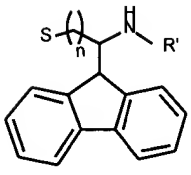




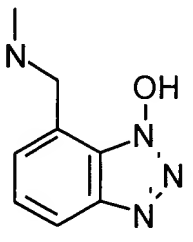
R=H,OMe



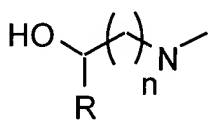
R=H,NO2
X=O,S



R' = peptide



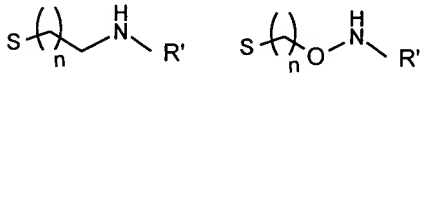
and



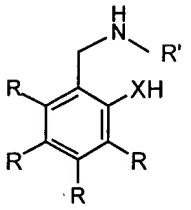
R=H,Me .

47. (New) A method according to claim 8, in which A2 is 6-nitro-2-hydroxybenzyl, 4-nitro-2-hydroxybenzyl or 5-nitro-2-hydroxybenzyl.

48. (New) A method according to claim 19, in which A2 is selected from the group consisting of

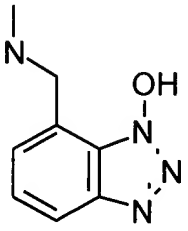


R=H,OMe

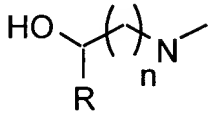


R=H,NO2
X=O,S

R' = peptide



and



R=H,Me .

49. (New) A method according to claim 19, in which A2 is 6-nitro-2-hydroxybenzyl, 4-nitro-2-hydroxybenzyl or 5-nitro-2-hydroxybenzyl.

50. (New) A method according to claim 8, in which the ring contraction reaction occurs spontaneously.

51. (New) A method according to claim 32, in which the ring contraction reaction occurs spontaneously.

52. (New) A method according to claim 33, in which the ring contraction reaction occurs spontaneously.